

Would Malachi Be Heard Today?

(Part 2)

Background of Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah and Malachi

Restoration

- 445-432 BC Malachi writes about faithfulness to the Lord.
 - About 100 years after the restoration.
 - 2nd and 3rd generation descendants had begun to lose sight of serving the Lord and wholehearted zeal.

Ye say ... "Wherein hast thou loved us?"
Malachi 1:2

Ye say ... "Wherein have we despised thy name?" Malachi 1:6

Ye say ... "Wherein have we polluted thee?" Malachi 1:7

Ye say, "Wherefore?" (Why is God displeased with us?) Malachi 2:10-14

Ye say ... "Wherein have we wearied him?"
Malachi 2:17

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say, "Evil is good." 2:17
Isaiah 5:20, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"
- Proverbs 17:15, "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to Jehovah."
- Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people."

Ye say ... "Wherein have we wearied him?"
Malachi 2:17

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say, "Where is the God of justice?" 2:17
 - The evil charge against Jehovah is the opposite of His stated opposition to evil. (cf. Deuteronomy 18:19; 25:16)

Ye say ... "Wherein have we wearied him?"
Malachi 2:17

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say, "Where is the God of justice?" 2:17
 - God's justice is coming. But first His messenger. 3:1-5.
 - Malachi 3:1, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me." Isaiah 40:3-5; John 1:21-23
 - This forward-looking vision arises in the midst of a nation that was tired of hearing prophetic messages.

Ye say ... "Wherein have we wearied him?"

Malachi 2:17

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say, "Where is the God of justice?" 2:17
- God's justice is coming. But first His messenger. 3:1-5.
- Malachi 3:1, "and the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom ye desire, behold, he cometh, saith Jehovah of hosts." (Isaiah 53; Romans 3:23-26; cf. Hebrews 8:8; 9:15; 10:5; 13:20)
- New refined priesthood. Hebrews 4:14ff; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:5, 9

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Ye say ... "Wherein have we wearied him?"

Malachi 2:17

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say, "Where is the God of justice." 2:17
- He will punish ALL the wicked and bless the faithful remnant. 3:6; 2 Peter 3:9
 - Principle always been true. Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Ezekiel 18:23; cf. Habakkuk 1:2-4; Psalms 73:1-17
 - The reward for the righteous is "reserved in heaven" and "ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:4-5).

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Ye say ... "Wherein shall we return?"

Malachi 3:7

The Lord's Answer:

- "Keep my ordinances." 3:7
 - Days of Noah. Genesis 6:3; 1 Peter 3:20
 - Moses warned. Deuteronomy 4, 8, 28-30
 - Joshua warned. Joshua 23:14ff
- You have not kept mine ordinances. cf. Nehemiah 13; Malachi 1-2; Zechariah 1:3-4; cf. 2 John 9

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Ye say ... "Wherein have we robbed thee?"

Malachi 3:8

The Lord's Answer:

- In tithes and offerings. 3:8; cf. Leviticus 27:30-33
- God is not so destitute that he needs tithes and offerings to maintain himself (Psalms 50:7-15).
- "Prove me now ..." 3:10-12
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8-9
 - Psalms 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

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Ye say ... "What have we spoken against thee?" Malachi 3:13-14

The Lord's Answer:

- Ye say: 3:14 NOTE: 1:7, 12,13; 2:17
 - It is vain to serve God.
 - What profit is it that we have kept his charge?
 - We have walked mournfully.
 - They tempt God, and escape.
- Remnant: Distinction, makes a difference. 3:16ff; NOTE: Psalms 37:7-9; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

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Conclusion:

- Remember the law of Moses. cf. Deuteronomy 4:1-9
- Elijah will come. cf. 3:1; Matthew 11:14; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:17

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